

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 4-12 are pending. Claims 4-12 stand rejected.

Claims 1 through 3 have been canceled. Claims 13-14 are added.

4. (twice amended): A tufted carpet comprising:

(a) at least a pile layer and

(b) at least one backing layer,

wherein said pile layer comprises fibers tufted into said backing layer, ~~extending in a direction opposite said at least one backing layer~~,

further wherein said at least one backing layer of said tufted carpet comprises a plurality of polypropylene tape fibers forming said backing layer; ~~and~~

further wherein at least one of said polypropylene tape fibers comprises at least 10 ppm of a nucleator compound and exhibits a tensile strength of at least 3 grams/denier;

further wherein said polypropylene tape fibers exhibit a shrinkage rate after exposure to 150°C hot air of less than about 2%.

5. (currently amended): The carpet of Claim 4 wherein said nucleator compound is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, ~~sodium benzoate~~, NA-11, NA-21, and any mixtures thereof.

6. (original): The carpet of Claim 5 wherein said nucleating agent is p-MDBS.

7. (twice amended): A tufted carpet comprising at least a pile layer and at least one backing layer, said pile layer having fibers tufted into said backing layer, wherein ~~said pile layer comprises fibers extending in a direction opposite said at least one backing layer,~~ wherein said at least one backing layer is constructed, at least in part, ~~with~~ comprises a plurality of polypropylene tape fibers, wherein said at least one of said polypropylene tape fibers comprises at least 10 ppm of a nucleator compound, and wherein said at least one polypropylene tape fiber exhibits a shrinkage rate after exposure to 150°C hot air of less than about 2%, and a tensile strength of greater than about 2.5 grams/denier.

8. (currently amended): The carpet of Claim 7 wherein said nucleator compound is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, ~~sodium benzoate,~~ NA-11, NA-21, and any mixtures thereof.

9. (original): The carpet of Claim 8 wherein said nucleating agent is p-MDBS.

10. (~~twice currently~~ amended): A ~~carpet~~ tufted carpet comprising at least a pile layer and at least one backing layer, ~~wherein said pile layer comprises fibers extending in a direction opposite said at least one backing layer,~~ wherein said at least one backing layer comprises a plurality of polypropylene tape fibers, wherein at least one of said polypropylene tape fibers comprises at least about 10 ppm of a nucleator compound, and wherein said at least polypropylene tape fiber exhibits an x-ray scattering pattern such that the center of the scattering peak is at about 0.4 degrees or lower.

11. (currently amended): The carpet of Claim 10 wherein said nucleating agent is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, ~~sodium benzoate~~, NA-11, NA-21, and any mixtures thereof.

12. (original): The carpet of Claim 11 wherein said nucleating agent is p-MDBS.

13. (new) The tufted carpet of claim 10, further wherein said polypropylene tape fibers exhibit a shrinkage rate after exposure to 150°C hot air of less than about 2%.

14. (New) A carpet comprising:
(a) at least a pile layer and
(b) at least one backing layer,
wherein said pile layer comprises fibers tufted into said backing layer,
further wherein said at least one backing layer of said tufted carpet comprises a plurality
of polypropylene tape fibers forming said backing layer;
further wherein at least one of said polypropylene tape fibers comprises at least 10 ppm
of a nucleator compound, said nucleator compound comprising a DBS derivative.